REMARKS

Claims 44-47, 49, 51-53 and 63-71 are pending in the application. Claims 1-43, 48, 50 and 54-62 were previously canceled. Claims 65-71 were previously added.

Applicants and applicants' attorney representative wish to acknowledge with appreciation the telephone interview granted by the Office. Examiner Chuong was kind enough to conduct the telephonic interview with applicants' attorney representative on March 28, 2006 in an attempt to further the prosecution of the application. In particular, the parties discussed claims 44 and 63. Regarding claim 44, the parties discussed applicants' contention that neither Odam nor Sumita disclose determining a priority of a topic based on a frequency of selected keywords in a window, and based on a number of times that a window containing said topic is accessed, such as is described, for example, on page 13, lines 16-28 of the specification. Regarding claim 63, the parties discussed applicants' contention that neither Odam nor Sumita disclose determining a priority of a window based on the amount of time during which a window was actively scrolled, such as by dragging a scroll bar. This feature is disclosed, for example, on page 10, lines 22-33 of the specification.

Claims 44-47, 51-53 and 63-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,825,360 to Odam et al, hereinafter "Odam", in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,907,836 to Sumita et al, hereinafter "Sumita". Claims 44, 63 And 71 are independent. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 44 provides a method for automatic control of window overlap, including automatically determining priorities of each window of a plurality of overlapping windows displayed on a graphical user interface, and automatically arranging the plurality of windows to overlap one another in order of the priority on the graphical user interface. The window priority is derived from a topic of each window of the plurality of windows, and the topic of the window is determined by a frequency of occurrence of at least one keyword in the window. The priority of the window is

assigned based on a priority of the topic, and the priority of the topic is determined based on a number of times a window having the topic is accessed.

Odam discloses a method for arranging windows in a workspace including assigning a priority to each of a plurality of windows in the workspace according to a predefined criteria (col. 3, lines 24-28). In one embodiment, each window is assigned a priority number, initially assigned according to some predetermined criteria, such as the relative time of each window's creation, a user's preference, and the relative importance of each window (col. 7, lines 4-12). In one example, the priority number of each window may be assigned based on a time that each window is created, so that the window most recently created or selected receives the highest priority, or based on a preference set by a user (col. 13, lines 47-57).

Odam discloses a method including setting a priority of a window based on an assigned number, according to criteria including a time of each window's creation, a user's preference, or the relative importance of each window. As admitted on page 3 of the Office Action, Odam does not disclose setting a priority of a window based on a topic of each window, as recited in claim 44.

Sumita discloses an information filtering apparatus and method that presents the relativity among articles to present the articles to a user so to enable the user to easily recognize the relativity among the articles (col. 2, lines 35-39). The information filtering apparatus and the method therefor according to Sumita enable articles having similar contents to be formed into groups or made to be related to one anther before the articles are presented to a user (col. 2, lines 51-56). A user profile 10 can be created, which consists of a plurality of topics specified by the user so that an article meeting the topic is retrieved and selected so as to be supplied to the user (col. 15, lines 26-29).

In one embodiment, a summary or abstract generating portion 36 generates a summary or an abstract having a length corresponding to the satisfied topic while making a reference to information about the satisfied topic (col. 39, lines 35-47). The

"summary" is a text of a type generated to plainly express the subject of the article and formed from the original, while the "abstract" is an extraction of a portion of the original article, such as an important text (col. 39, lines 48-51).

The length of the summary or the abstract is a compression ratio with respect to the original, the number of sentences, the number of paragraphs, the number of characters or a percentage with respect to the overall body of the text to be presented (col. 39, lines 52-56). As shown in FIG. 71, articles such as articles 1 and 2, having a topic that has the highest priority among the topics selected by the user, are presented with a relatively long summary or an abstract (col. 40, lines 40-45). Articles satisfying lower priority topics are presented with a relatively short summary or abstract (col. 40, lines 45-48). Because articles are compressed with a compression ratio relative to each article's length, the actual length of each abstract or summary may not correspond to the topic priority (col. 40, lines 52-60).

Thus, Sumita discloses an apparatus and method that presents numerous articles satisfying a user's retrieval conditions. The articles are presented with the retrieval condition information, such as a topic of the article. The topics may be assigned different priorities. Articles having a higher priority are presented with abstracts that are compressed to a smaller degree than articles having lower priority topics.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Odam, which determines priority primarily based on the most recently created or selected window, nor Sumita, which determines priority based on user-specified topics, disclose or suggest **determining priority based on a number of times a window having a specified topic is accessed**. Therefore, neither Sumita nor Odam disclose or suggest "automatically arranging said plurality of windows to overlap one another in order of said priority on said graphical user interface, wherein said priority of said window is assigned based on a priority of said topic, and said priority of said topic is determined based on a number of times a window having said topic is accessed," as recited in claim 44.

Thus, Odam and Sumita, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose the elements of claim 44. Therefore, claim 44 is patentable over the cited combination of Odam and Sumita.

Claims 45-47, 49 and 51-53 depend from claim 44. Claim 71 includes recitals similar to Claim 44. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of the patentability of claim 44, claims 45-47, 49, 51-53 and 71 are patentable over the cited combination of Odam and Sumita.

Independent claim 63 provides a method for automatic control of window overlap based on a user's history of window use, including automatically determining a priority of each window of a plurality of overlapping windows displayed on a graphical user interface, and automatically arranging the plurality of windows to overlap one another in order of the priority on the graphical user interface. The priority is derived from an amount of time during which scrolling is performed on a window. Scrolling includes dragging contents of a window to reveal additional contents.

As discussed above, Odam discloses determining a priority based on how recently a window has been accessed, and Sumita discloses determining priority based on user-specified topics. However, neither Odam nor Sumita disclose **determining priority based on an amount of time during which the contents of a window have been actively scrolled**. Therefore, neither Odam nor Sumita disclose or suggest "automatically arranging automatically determining a priority of each window of a plurality of overlapping windows displayed on a graphical user interface, wherein said priority is derived from an amount of time during which scrolling is performed on a window, wherein said scrolling includes dragging contents of a window to reveal additional contents; and automatically arranging said plurality of windows to overlap one another in order of said priority on said graphical user interface," as recited in claim 63. Thus, claim 63 is patentable over the cited combination of Odam and Sumita.

Claims 64-70 depend from claim 44. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of the patentability of claim 44, claims 64-70 are also patentable over the cited combination of Odam and Sumita.

For the reasons set forth above, the rejection of claims 63-70 as unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of Odam is overcome. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 63-70 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 49 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Odam in view of Sumita, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,559,533 to Bass et al., hereinafter "Bass". Claim 49 depends from independent claim 44. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As described above, claim 44 is patentable over the cited combination of Odam and Sumita. Applicants do not believe that Bass makes up for the deficiencies of Odam and Sumita, as they apply to claim 44. Thus, claim 44 is patentable over the cited combination of Odam, Sumita and Bass.

Claim 49 depends from claim 44. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of the patentability of claim 44, claim 49 is patentable over the cited combination of Matsumoto and Bass. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 49 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

An indication of the allowability of all pending claims by issuance of a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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